

2006 Local Accomplishments

AID FOR TOWNS IN THE 19TH SENATE DISTRICT

A very important part of my job representing the people of the 19th state Senate District is ensuring Andover, Bozrah, Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague receive their fair share of state funding. I am pleased to report the following grants and reimbursements from the state:

Total Education Grants	\$75,657,276	This funding is an increase of \$2,381,835 over last year's total
Town Aid Road Fund (TAR)	\$1,297,580	
Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Grants	\$5,995,101	
Local Capital Improvements (LoCIP)	\$898,363	
Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT)	\$3,097,018	
Extra Property Tax Relief for 2006	\$1,007,751	
Totals	\$87,953,088	

Senior Center Van

I'm pleased to announce that I helped secure state funds for the Hebron Senior Center to purchase a senior van to transport elderly Hebron residents. Last year I secured funding for a similar vehicle to serve residents in Lebanon, and that van has just been placed in service. As our population ages and more and more residents lose their ability to drive, it will become increasingly important to provide for their transportation needs, and senior citizens represent the fastest-growing segment of our population.

Improving Schools

Students across the 19th District will benefit from important school construction projects that have been approved by the legislature. The legislation authorizes over \$96 million for projects at Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon, at Teachers' Memorial and Kelly Memorial Middle Schools and at Norwich Technical High School in Norwich. Also approved were 5 projects in Montville including the Montville Alternative School, Montville High School, Murphy Elementary, Oakdale Elementary and Tyl Middle School.

Improved Services

Residents who live in and around Norwich are familiar with the help provided to those in need by United Community and Family Services. That's why I am proud to have ensured that UCFS receives additional aid from the state. This non-profit has been active for 125 years and offers a wide range of health and human service programs. This and other community health agencies in other parts of the state have been underfunded.

Preserving Open Space

Earlier this year, the state authorized funding for the acquisition of development rights for two significant tracts of Franklin open space that will thereby remain preserved in perpetuity. One of the most beautiful aspects of our part of Connecticut is its picturesque landscape and the unparalleled ability it provides to establish a direct link back to our agrarian heritage through our rural surroundings. More than 113 acres of the Koziol-Cushman Farm in Franklin and 53 acres of the Sawicky Farm in North Franklin will be preserved.



House parties pose a significant risk to our young people who consume alcohol on private property. The General Assembly passed a new law this session that makes it a crime to knowingly allow underage drinking on your private property or to do nothing to prevent such activity. This legislation also extends the law prohibiting the possession of alcohol by a minor on public property to all private property as well.

A Message to My Constituents



Dear Neighbors,

On May 3rd, the 2006 legislative session came to a close. Our state Constitution dictates the beginning and closing times for each legislative session, and this year was the shortest possible—only 85 days. In this short time, the General Assembly passed significant initiatives to make Connecticut a better place to work, live and educate our children. I have included some highlights of the session in this newsletter.

I am especially proud that a bipartisan budget was adopted that provides tax relief to people who own homes or automobiles or businesses. We've also passed a budget that provides additional money to cities and towns to help hold down local property taxes. This includes an increase—from \$400 to \$500—on the state property tax credit.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Edith G. Prague
Edith Prague
State Senator, 19th District

Stay Informed...

For the latest information on the issues affecting your district, please visit my Web site:
www.senatedems.ct.gov/Prague.html



TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION on any of the following issues, fill out this form and mail it to me, e-mail or call my office. Make sure to give your name and mailing address and indicate which issues you're interested in. My contact information is on the mailing address panel.

- ☐ Seniors
- ☐ Business
- ☐ Land Use
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Crime
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Children
- ☐ Municipalities

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____



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Edith Prague

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I'm proud to represent the 19th state Senate District which includes the communities of Andover, Bozrah, Columbia, Franklin, Hebron, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague

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CONNECTICUT JOBS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

2006 Legislative Initiatives

A recent study shocked the state with the information that since 1991, Connecticut has experienced no net job growth. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I initiated a comprehensive plan to address the need for job growth in order to steer our state toward a brighter future. Our legislative package invests in education, jobs, university/business partnerships, transportation improvements, and the promotion of promising fuel cell technologies that have been developed right here in our own backyard.

Highlights of our successful initiative include:

- **Elimination of the Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment property tax** to attract more manufacturing jobs to Connecticut, especially the cutting-edge, precision manufacturing that is critical to our future economy
- **Tax incentives to attract movie companies** to film their productions here in Connecticut
- **Expanding Connecticut's position as a global leader in the fuel cell industry** by improving clean energy alternatives in ways that grow jobs in this highly skilled sector
- **A Center for Entrepreneurship** that will assist promising technologies—including fuel cells—develop right here in our state
- **More funding for incumbent worker training programs**, provided by regional workforce development boards, to help workers learn new and valuable skills
- **Development Research and Economic Assistance Matching (DREAM) grants** that supplement and increase small businesses' access to federal research grants
- **A Business Advocate's office** to serve as a one-stop contact point for businesses to access government assistance and cut through red tape
- **Encouraging more engineering and doctoral research graduates to stay and work in Connecticut** through a 'Scholar-to-Work' system which ensures that innovation and creativity will remain a hallmark of Connecticut's future in the growing world marketplace



With the help of an increasing budget surplus, we were able to make many improvements to our existing FY '07 budget. And importantly, we were able to pass this budget on time and with bipartisan support. We wisely used state resources to make significant investments in programs beneficial to the health, safety and education of Connecticut's residents. In

addition, we are funding a cutting edge economic development program designed to create the kind of jobs needed to keep Connecticut vital and competitive in the 21st century.

- We increased aid to cities and towns by \$60 million, including an extra \$20 million for special education costs—an action necessary to help keep local property taxes down
- Deposited approximately \$350 million into the Rainy Day Fund
- Fully funded the state Teachers' Retirement Fund in both FY '06 and FY '07 with \$246 million
- Successfully fought to increase the car and property tax credit from \$400 to \$500
- \$13 million more in Medicaid rates for financially distressed hospitals, and \$5 million to support other hospitals

STATE SENATOR EDITH PRAGUE 19TH DISTRICT

Working for Connecticut's Future



Healthy Food and Beverages in Schools

We listened to Connecticut's nutritionists, physicians and parents and fought to provide our students with healthier food and beverage choices. Senate Democrats led passage of landmark legislation that bans the sale of soda and other sugary drinks in schools. It also provides towns three times as much in school lunch aid from the state if they provide healthier choices for their students. This incentive will promote the better nutrition and healthier lifestyles our kids deserve.

Energy Efficiency

To help residents with energy costs, we passed legislation last October that exempted certain weatherization products—such as insulation, programmable thermostats, and energy-efficient furnaces and boilers—from the state sales tax. This session, we extended the exemption until June 30, 2007. We also passed legislation that requires certain state construction projects to meet stricter energy and environmental standards. This will help save state taxpayers money while promoting energy efficiency.

Banning Internet or E-mail "Phishing"

The legislature adopted tough standards regarding the use of the Internet or e-mail messaging—known as "phishing"—to obtain a person's identifying information by posing

as an online business. The attorney general or victims of phishing may sue to recover damages and restrain the offender from further violations. Courts may award up to \$25,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater. If the offender is found to be a persistent violator, the court may award triple damages.

Hospital-Acquired Infections

We have all heard about people who went into hospitals to get better, but unfortunately developed infections after being admitted. A new law will create a reporting system, providing the public with necessary information to compare infection rates at health care facilities in Connecticut. The system may also provide information about methods used to prevent the spread of infection. Beginning October 2008, this information will be published on a state Web site.

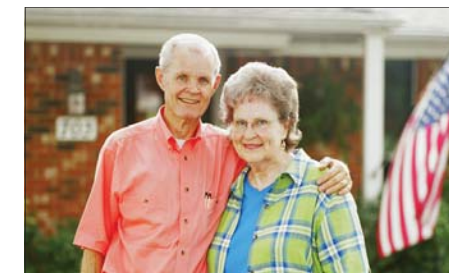


Health Insurance Coverage for Breast Cancer Screening

Early and accurate diagnosis is the key to the most effective treatment of breast cancer. Due to new legislation we passed this year, certain insurance companies will be required to cover comprehensive ultrasound screening for women with increased risk factors for breast cancer, as well as those whose mammograms indicate dense breast tissue. This law will help more women gain access to the best screening tools medical science can offer.

Clean Cars

The increased concentration of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxides, in our atmosphere has the potential to negatively affect our climate. Since our vehicles emit these harmful gases, we passed legislation establishing a labeling program for new cars sold or leased for model years 2009 or later. The label will include a "greenhouse gas score" to help educate consumers on which vehicles are more environmentally sound and which have less detrimental impact.



Social Security Offset

Treating seniors fairly is important, and a new law resolves a long-standing inequity. New legislation, which I proposed, eliminates the deduction of Social Security retirement benefits from workers' compensation benefits. Under prior law, a person eligible for workers' compensation total disability payments received workers' compensation only that exceeded his or her Social Security retirement benefit. Now those who are injured while working will be able to collect all the benefits to which they are entitled.

Homemaker-Companion Agency Registration

As part of an effort to keep seniors safe, new legislation has passed that will regulate homemaker-companion agencies. This act requires homemaker-companion agencies to conduct comprehensive background checks on new employees. Agencies must also provide

clients with written, individualized contracts or service plans that identify the anticipated services' scope, type, frequency and duration.



Recognizing Our Veterans

The debt owed our state's veterans can never be paid in full. During the 2006 session, the legislature continued

to recognize the service of our brave men and women by passing new laws aimed at paying part of this debt. These new laws include exempting disability payments from determining eligibility for certain income based property-tax exemptions for veterans, extending the same protections to state service members assigned to state duties as they would be entitled to on federal duty, and expanding the definition of veteran to include reservists and National Guardsmen.

Trafficking in Persons

The story of young women being taken from their native lands and forced into prostitution may sound like a movie plot, but unfortunately it is all too real in our state and across the country. These women are lured to our country by the prospect of a new life only to find that they are just a commodity once they arrive. These women are often forced into prostitution or slave labor with no idea of how to escape. Law enforcement now has a new tool to fight this epidemic by making a new crime of "Trafficking in Persons" a Class B felony.